



*Rev. Lyn Stratton  
serving communion*



The purpose of the Congregational Meeting was to approve the candidate, the Rev. Liz Mackenzie, for the position of minister as put forward by the Search Committee. The congregation developed



Ministry Articulation Profile in August 2017, the position vacancy was posted on the United Church Vacancy website in April 2018, and finally after almost a year of work, the Rev. Liz Mackenzie was approved at the CM on January 20, 2019. As part of the CM the call was changed from a Full Time Minister to an Appointment of an Intentional Interim Minister (IIM).

*Lynella Reid-James, liaison from the United Church, Mabel Hastings, recording secretary for the CM, and Anna Dunets, Chair of the Search Committee, at the CM*

Rev. Mackenzie recognises that the congregation needs to develop a plan to address the future of the church, and that is especially what an IIM does. Rev. Mackenzie will be with us starting March 1, 2019 until June 30, 2022 for this purpose. At the CM the Official Board was also tasked with identifying a small group of people to serve on the Transition Team with Rev. Mackenzie. However all members of the congregation, and those interested in supporting Dewi Sant, will be asked to participate in the workshops and other events looking at the transition.

Rev. Liz comes to us from the Saskatchewan Conference where she served as the Conference Personnel Minister. She has several degrees including Doctor of Ministry, Masters of Divinity, an MBA, BEd and BA. She has served as the Minister of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care in Melrose United Church, Hamilton; Beach United Church, Toronto; Cawthra Park United Church, Mississauga; and Bailieboro-Springville Pastoral Charge, Peterborough. She also taught in the NWT and ran her own consulting business. While not Welsh, Rev. Liz Mackenzie has an Icelandic background from Manitoba and so has an understanding of immigrants and the ensuing language and cultural loss in the generations after immigration. We are a lucky church to have her as our new minister.

Anyone looking for more information on Rev. Liz should contact Anna Dunets (the editor of Y Gadwyn – see end of this newsletter).



Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> was another Special Music Sunday lead by members of the congregation. We were joined by members of the Korean Beacon Church who share our church premises. Several readings such as Psalm 98, were in English and Welsh as read by Oli Hoffman.



The theme of the service was the marriage of words and music. Hefina Phillips led us through the selections providing history and meaning for the words and music and the following notes are hers: Our literature is overwhelmed with exquisite poems. But what happens if a composer in love with those words attempts to put them to music? The result is an amazing and unforgettable "marriage" that continues to thrill and inspire indefinitely.

*Hefina Phillips*

(We sang *Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtrwydd* by Ann Griffiths to the tune *Cwm Rhondda* and Merched Dewi then sang it using a modern tune by Linda Gittins.) For Merched Dewi our favourite example of the perfect marriage of words and music is Pantycelyn's passionate love poem "Rwy'n edrych dross y bryniau pell" written in the late 1700's and the hymn tune *Hiraeth* written in the 20th century by Daniel Protheroe. William Williams Pantycelyn is the best known Welsh hymn writer.



*Merched Dewi*

The words begin with Pantycelyn searching for someone that he loves, waiting every hour for that person to appear. He uses the word "Fy Anwlyd" (my Love/Lover) which clearly shows the relationship between the writer and the Lord. *Y Tangnefeddwyr* is a poem written Waldo Williams, who as a pacifist, wrote these words after seeing Swansea in flames after horrendous bombing during the Second World War. He remembers his peace loving parents and invokes the Beatitudes as he repeats Blessed are the peace makers for they are the children of God - Gwyn eu byd y Tangnefeddwyr, blant i Dduw. The music was written by Eric Jones at the beginning of the 21st century and it immediately became a #1 hit with choirs throughout Wales. (We also played a video of Llanddarog Choir singing this song).

In addition to his regular accompaniment, Matthew Coons our organist played excerpts from "Kyrie" from the *Premiere Livre D'Orgue* by N. de Grigny. Prior to playing he discussed the piece – nice to see Matthew in the pulpit.



Two soloists performed. Sheryl Clay-Newell sang Robot Arwyn's *Benedictus*. Robot Arwyn's is the most prolific composer in Wales today and his works are sung world-wide. He is especially admired this side of the Atlantic. The words "Benedictus qui venit in nomine patri - Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord - Bendigedig yw'r hwn sydd yn dyfod yn enw'r Iôr" - are from the prayer sung during the Catholic Mass. Sheryl later sang Y Nefoedd which was written by the



Welsh poet Ieuan Gwyllt accompanied by a tune written by J. Osborne Roberts. Rebecca Gibson was our other soloist and also sang some solo parts with Merched Dewi. Rebecca sang *The Gaelic Blessing*. In 1978 Rutter adapted the words of an ancient Gaelic rune to which he added a line mentioning Jesus and added the word Amen thus converting it to a Christian anthem. It became popular in 2003 when a recording of it by Aled Jones was released. Due to the gentle nature of the text and melody it has become popular at Christenings, weddings and funerals.

*Rebecca Gibson*

## **WELSH SERVICES/ Y GWASANAETH CYMRAEG**

There will be a planning meeting for the Welsh services in 2019 on February 17 at Dewi Sant Church after the morning service. This is open to anyone who is interested in preparing the services – you do not have to be a Welsh speaker.

### **A NOTE FROM GRETL DAVIES**

Gretl would like to thank the many church members who came to see her and got in touch via phone or email. She also appreciated the flowers which were sent to me from the church. AS she writes: "For each and every one who encouraged me with their kind words, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

After the shocking death of her oldest grandson, Cameron Davies, in December Gretl developed severe pneumonia which required two weeks in the hospital and subsequent discharge to the AMICA on Steeles West. Gretl will be at AMICA for at least another 4 weeks into March. We hope and pray that she will be able to return home and perhaps join us for a service in the not too distant future.

*The Editor*

### **A NOTE FROM OLWEN DUNETS**

I would like to thank all who attended my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday party in January. It gave me great joy to renew so many acquaintances. Thank you for your good wishes and many remembrances. I enjoyed Rev. Cerwyn Davies' composition for this occasion – new words to the hymn tune "How





## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **ST. DAVID'S DAY/ DYDD GWYL DEWI**

Rev. Mackenzie will be starting with us on March 1, so we expect to see as many as possible on her first Sunday, March 3, St. David's Day. This will be a bilingual Welsh/English service. Please consider attending this service as a great way to start Rev. Mackenzie's new ministry with us, meet friends and remember the namesake of our congregation. If you live outside of Toronto, consider staying with over in the city for a few days. Mike and I have a spare room and would welcome anyone to sojourn with us.

*Anna Dunets, member of the Board of Session; see contact at the end of this newsletter*

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can learn how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. This year's theme is "Come – Everything is Ready" prepared by the women of Slovenia. The event in our area will be held on **2:00 p.m. March 1** at St. Leonard's Church, 25 Wanless Avenue, Toronto.

The World Day of Prayer traces its roots to the 19th century when Christian women of Canada and the United States became involved in missions at home and worldwide. Since 1812, women have encouraged one another to engage in personal prayer and lead communal prayer within their mission groups. On October 19, 1918, Presbyterian women in Canada called together representatives of five Women's Missionary Boards – Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian – "to promote the spreading of Christ's kingdom through united prayer and action." That first inter-church meeting gave birth to the Interim Committee on the Federation of the Women's Missionary Society Boards of Canada, which organized a national and inter denominational day of prayer on January 9, 1920.

### **GOOD FRIDAY AND THE GYMANFA GANU**

This year the Good Friday Service on April 19 at 3:30 p.m. will be followed by the Gymanfa Ganu at 7:00 p.m.. We have decided to return to the tradition of having dinner in-between the two events but this year it will be catered. Because of this we will need to have fairly accurate numbers of those planning to attend. Please contact Nest Pritchard at 416-923-2392 or [nritchard38@gmail.com](mailto:nritchard38@gmail.com) and Risti Jensen at 416-225-8186 or [risti.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:risti.jensen@gmail.com) to book your dinner and to enquire about cost.

The afternoon service will be led by our new minister, the Rev. Liz Mackenzie. The conductor of the Gymanfa Ganu will be William Woloschuk, who is also the conductor of the Welsh Male Voice Choir. Please plan to attend this event as it will be the first time for Rev. Mackenzie to see and to hear this Welsh tradition. If you need transportation to these events contact your Board of Session representative.



## ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL

April 26-28

Please join us at the Ontario Welsh Festival in London



Book your room at: **DoubleTree by Hilton 519 439 1661**

[www.doubletree3.hilton.com](http://www.doubletree3.hilton.com)

Special rates for festival attendees: \$125 per traditional room

*Apologies: Incorrect rate quoted in last Gadwyn*

Those of us that attend the annual **Ontario Welsh Festival** (Gwyl Gymreig Ontario) are eagerly looking forward to this year's event in **London, Ontario, April 26-28**, headquartered at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, in downtown London.

We hope you will come and join us.

The visiting Male Voice Choir from mid-Wales, **Côr Machynlleth**, is a relatively young choir, with many of the members being in their 30s. It was established in October 2014, to compete at the 2015 National Eisteddfod, where they were awarded second prize in the Male Voice Choir section at the 2015 Eisteddfod, and again at the 2016 National Eisteddfod. This paved the way for a very special and successful year in 2017, winning the Male Voice Choir section in the Côr Cymru (Choir of Wales) competition on S4C TV Channel; being awarded first prize in the Male Voice Choir section at the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey, and singing the national anthem ahead of the Wales v New Zealand rugby international at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff. You can hear clips on their Facebook page, but WOW, we are really looking forward to listening to them live, in concert, on **Saturday, April 27 @ 8:00 p.m. at First St. Andrew's United Church at 350 Queens Ave.**

A tour of Labatt's Brewery is planned for early Friday afternoon. It is one of Canada's oldest and most successful breweries. A guided tour of 1.5 to 2 hours walks you through a fully operational brewery. Watch some of the world's finest beers being made, a blend of ancient and modern skills and technologies - and of course there's samplings. At the Hotel you will be welcomed with a cup of tea with Welsh Cakes and Bara Brith, complete with harp entertainment - and let's not forget the "Noson Lawen" in the evening. Were you at last year's? - it was brilliant !

The "Say it in Welsh" Workshop - following the AGM, which we hope you will attend on Saturday morning - is extremely popular, and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants, An opportunity to both practice and learn a few Welsh greetings. For the afternoon Alison has arranged a Documentary/Film called "Y Chwarelwr", and also a movie "Y Streic a Fi" - a charming film in Welsh with English sub-titles. In between events visit the Marketplace for the goods on offer. Highlight of the Saturday evening Banquet will be a presentation of the annual Gold Award - **this year's recipient is Donna Morris**, which will be followed by the Choir Concert at First St Andrews United Church.

You have hopefully marked your calendars. We'd love for you to join us for the whole Festival. Register before March 25 for reduced cost. Registration Forms will be available on our web-site in February. To receive a Registration Form by mail, please email your mailing address to: [registrar@ontariowelshfestival.ca](mailto:registrar@ontariowelshfestival.ca)

For further information check our website: [www.ontariowelshfestival.ca](http://www.ontariowelshfestival.ca)

**ALSO** Alison Lawson of the Ottawa Welsh is managing the Silent Auction table at the Marketplace this year. If any reader has an item that they could donate to the Silent Auction let Alison know at [alisonlawson@rogers.com](mailto:alisonlawson@rogers.com). If you are attending the Festival, you can bring the item with you at that time. If not, and the item (well-marked as to its intent) can be brought to Dewi Sant, I will see that it gets to the Festival. They can also contact me at [mairwent@icloud.com](mailto:mairwent@icloud.com).  
*Mairwen Thornley*

### **DONATIONS TO Y GADWYN OR HOW ABOUT EMAIL?**

Please contact the Editor if you wish to receive Y Gadwyn by email. If you want to keep using paper we are also looking for donations to cover the postage. Thanks to the donors in the recent past who include: Iona Rees, Margaret Nowell, Bill and Mary Hall, Cerwyn & Nora Davies, Laverne Horner, John Jenkins and Harold Rowland.

Please send all donations payable to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church (with a note it is for Y Gadwyn) and to the church Secretary, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, 33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto, M5M 1Y6.

### **CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS**

Anna Dunets, Editor. Email: [adunetswills@gmail.com](mailto:adunetswills@gmail.com) or 416-485-4074.  
Please send in your contributions by February 28 which is the cut-off date for submissions to the next issue.

